

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 16 has been amended. Claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled. Claims 24-28 have been added. Claims 16-20 and 24-28 are pending and under consideration.

ADVISORY ACTION

Claims 16-18 and 21-23 were previously rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kwon (US 6,516,484) (hereinafter "Kwon").

Claims 19 and 20 were previously rejected under USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Kwon in view of Kim et al. (US 2003/0024056) (hereinafter "Kim").

Claims 16-21

Amended claim 16 recites: "...wherein the control unit simultaneously operates the motor and the pumping unit, to cause laundry contained in the rotary to fall after being upwardly raised in accordance with a rotation of the rotary tub, and to feed the water contained in the lower portion of the water tub to the falling laundry."

The present invention as recited in claim 16 relates to a drum washing machine in which laundry is washed in a rotary tub, using a head drop generated when the laundry falls after being upwardly raised in accordance with a rotation of the rotary tub. As claimed, the rotary tub is installed in a water tub, to rotate about a horizontal axis. As further provided by the structure of claim 16, wash water contained in a lower portion of the water tub is sprayed onto the laundry, simultaneously with the falling of the laundry.

Accordingly, claim 16 is capable of uniformly spraying the wash water over the entire portion of the laundry. By contrast, Kwon discusses a fully automatic washing machine where washing and rinsing operations are carried out, using a water flow generated in a water tub in accordance with a pulsation of pulsators and a rotation of a rotary tub, under the condition in which laundry is completely dipped in water. Specifically, in Kwon the rotary tub is installed in the water tub, to rotate about a vertical axis. Accordingly, in Kwon it is substantially impossible to uniformly spray wash water over the entire portion of the laundry even when the wash water is downwardly sprayed through a circulation thereof during the rotation of the rotary tub or pulsators. This is because the washing and rinsing operations are carried out under the

condition in which the laundry is completely dipped in water. In this case, the wash water is sprayed onto only a portion of the laundry exposed above the wash water.

Claim 21 has been cancelled. Claims 17-20 depend on claim 16 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

Claim 22

Claim 22 has been cancelled.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 24-28 have been added to present additional features of the present invention. New claim 24 recites, in part, a water level sensor to detect a water level of the rotary tub, wherein the control unit determines the water level from the water level sensor in response to the pumping unit and the motor being simultaneously stopped, which is believed to patentably distinguish over the relied upon references. Further, new claim 24 depend on claim 16.

New claim 25 recites, in part, simultaneously operating the motor and the pumping unit, to cause laundry contained in the rotary to fall after being upwardly raised in accordance with a rotation of the rotary tub, and to feed the water contained in the lower portion of the water tub to the falling laundry. As discussed above with respect to claim 16, it is respectfully submitted that this feature is not discussed in the relied upon references. Claims 26-28 depend on claim 25.

No new matter has been added, and entry and consideration are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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